

Alberta Finance Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of June 23, 2003 to June 27, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Retail sales (\$ millions)	April			Canadian retail sales fell 0.9% in April, to \$26.1 billion. Declines in the automotive (-2.6%), clothing (-0.9%), and furniture (-0.4%) sectors were largely responsible for the overall reduction. All other sectors with the exception of food (+0.8%) were unchanged from March. Four provinces recorded monthly losses, led by Ontario (-2.6%) and Saskatchewan (-1.3%). New Brunswick (+1.8%) and Prince Edward Island (+1.4%) led all provinces in monthly gains.
Alberta	3,240	0.4%	4.7%	
Canada	26,073	-0.9%	1.9%	
Canadian GDP (millions of 1997 dollars)	April			Canada's Gross Domestic Product fell 0.2% in April, after remaining unchanged in March. Monthly declines in the manufacturing (-0.4%), mining and oil and gas extraction (-2.3%), and utilities (-1.5%) sectors were partly offset by monthly gains in the health care and social assistance (+0.5%), finance, insurance and real estate (+0.2%), and construction (+0.2%) sectors.
	991252	-0.2%	1.8%	
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	May			Manufacturers' prices fell 2.0% in May. A rising Canadian dollar, which pushed down the prices of commodities quoted in U.S. dollars, accounted for almost three quarters of the monthly price decline. Lower prices for petroleum and coal products (-6.5%), as well as motor vehicles and other transport equipment (-3.7%) continue to contribute to monthly declines in the index.
	105.2	-2.0%	-1.7%	
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	May			Raw materials prices declined by 2.5% in May. Lower vegetable product prices (-3.8%) and mineral fuel prices (-3.8%) were the main contributor to the monthly decline. Prices for wood (-3.5%), ferrous metals (-2.9%), and animal and animal products (-0.1%) also declined on a monthly basis.
	113.0	-2.5%	-0.5%	